

Assistance Eng 200 Annotated Bibliography

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

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Ramsey, W. M. (2001). Family Matters in the Fiction of Charles W. Chesnutt. *The Southern Literary Journal*, 33(2), 30–43. JSTOR. <https://doi.org/10.2307/20078299>

In "Family Matters in the Fiction of Charles W. Chesnutt," the author explores the complex roles of family dynamics in Chesnutt's works, particularly how they reflect societal issues such as race, class, and identity. The article examines how Chesnutt's conceptualization of familial relations frequently crosses racial lines and sheds light on African Americans' plight in post-Reconstruction America. Further, it explores how family is where conflict between the personal and societal norms is played out. In general, this article serves as a very detailed examination of the use of Chesnutt's family as a narrative tool, which provides important information about their literary and social techniques. It is thoughtful and well-researched and will be useful as they analyze the deeper themes in Chesnutt's works.

Samuel, M. K. (2016). *CHARLES CHESNUTT AND THE LEGACY OF THE CONJURE WOMAN*. <https://kameelahmartin.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/charles-chesnutt-and-the-legacy-of-the-conjure-woman-article.pdf>

In "Charles Chesnutt and the Legacy of the Conjure Woman," the author examines how Chesnutt's short stories in *The Conjure Woman* engage with African American folklore, particularly the figure of the conjure woman, to explore themes of power, race, and resistance. Chesnutt's ways of critiquing racial stereotypes, along with his raising the voice to African American tradition and spiritual practices, are highlighted in the article. This literature discusses Chesnutt's magic, cultural identity, and social dynamic playing out with conjure women as a symbol of empowerment yet a site of tension. The article analyzes Chesnutt's work and what it means for his representation of African American folklore. It makes it a good read for those who want to know what Chesnutt did for literature and culture.

Mclemee, S. (2002). *Charles Chesnutt, the First Major Black Novelist, Regains His Former Glory*.

In "Charles Chesnutt, the First Major Black Novelist, Regains His Former Glory," the author reassesses Chesnutt's literary legacy, arguing that his work has been unjustly overlooked in the canon of American literature. This article analyzes how Chesnutt's novels, particularly *The Marrow of Tradition*, address the life of race, class, and social justice in post-Civil War America. It details how his work was received critically during his life and why he lost (slowly and in part) in popularity over time, a period marked by a reemergence of interest in his writing. However, the article does an eminent job of making a strong case for Chesnutt's importance in the literary world and how he has been unfairly forgotten while presenting a measured and fair appraisal of his works, which is a useful resource for anyone wanting to help correct American literary history.

Shaffer, D. M. (2012). African American Folklore as Racial Project in Charles W. Chesnutt's *The Conjure Woman*. *The Western Journal of Black Studies*, 36(4), 325.

In 'African American Folklore as Racial Project in Charles W. Chesnutt's *The Conjure Woman*,' the author looks at how Chesnutt uses African American folklore in his works to critique racial power structures and cultural appropriation. The article asserts that Chesnutt applies folklore not only as a tool with which to depict African American identity but also as a means to expose the rift between black and white communities in the post-Reconstruction South. It looks at how characters who are the conjure woman represent both resisting and being under the yoke as symbols of empowerment while being part of the oppressive social arrangement. By offering a sophisticated reading of Chesnutt's work, the article adds an important dimension to African American studies through its contributions on how folklore operates as a racial project.

Sonstegard, A. (2017). Charles Chesnutt, Clyde DeLand, and Literary-Graphic Illustration on the Color Line. *American Literary Realism*, 49(3), 191.
<https://doi.org/10.5406/amerlitereal.49.3.0191>

In "Charles Chesnutt, Clyde DeLand, and Literary-Graphic Illustration on the Color Line," the author explores the collaboration between Chesnutt and artist Clyde DeLand, examining how their combined works reflect the complexities of racial identity and segregation in America. This article analyzes how DeLand's illustrations in Chesnutt's publications visually reinforce the themes of race, identity, and marginalization developed in Chesnutt's writing. It also demonstrates how literary and visual art converged in representing the color line, giving visual representation to a racial divide that had been imagined in literature. Surprisingly interdisciplinary, the article provides an interesting, detailed analysis of how text and image elucidate one another in the formation of meaning, and it is an invaluable contribution to literary and visual studies alike.

Matheson, N. (2010). History and Survival: Charles Chesnutt and the Time of Conjure. *American Literary Realism*, 43(1), 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1353/alr.2010.0002>

In "History and Survival: Charles Chesnutt, and the Time of Conjure," the author investigates how Chesnutt's portrayal of African American folklore, particularly conjure traditions, reflects the historical struggles and survival strategies of black communities in the post-Reconstruction South. The article looks at how Chesnutt employs conjure as both a means of resistance and an instrument of survival in the face of racial oppression. It also examines the distorted connection between folklore and history in the writings of Chesnutt, who purveys an alternate portrait of the evolving interrelation between cultural continuation and social injustice. As a significant tool for understanding how folklore works in Chesnutt's broader critique of race and history, the article offers a thoughtful and thorough analysis of Chesnutt's use of conjure.

Susan Danielson. (2009). Charles Chesnutt's Dilemma: Professional Ethics, Social Justice, and Domestic Feminism in *The Marrow of Tradition*. *The Southern Literary Journal*, 41(1), 73–92. <https://doi.org/10.1353/slj.0.0034>

In "Charles Chesnutt's Dilemma: Professional Ethics, Social Justice, and Domestic Feminism in *The Marrow of Tradition*," the author explores the intersection of professional ethics, racial justice, and gender roles in Chesnutt's portrayal of the post-Reconstruction South. This article goes into depth about how Chesnutt uses characters who represent the social trials of black people and women at this time to critique both racial and gender inequities. As an example, the piece explores the conflict between individual moral decisions and more all encompassing influences of racism and sexism in Chesnutt's narrative as an exercise in social change. This article offers a rich and nuanced reading of *The Marrow of Tradition* through which the novel's commentary on ethics, justice, and feminism is given a fuller interpretation, so as to be a key component in understanding Chesnutt's complex social critique.

Zeigler, ary B. (2010). *Learning about Life through Language in Literature: Teaching Chesnutt's Critical Thinking*.

The author analyses the works of Charles Chesnutt as they are employed to teach critical thinking and race identity in "Learning about Life Through Language in Literature: Teaching, Chesnutt's Critical Thinking." The article then establishes how Chesnutt's language and structure problematizes readers on the societal norms and race, class and power issues and make them question. It also describes the ways in which educators can utilize Chesnutt's writing in classrooms to have students interrogate how language mediates and produces social experience. This article discusses how Chesnutt's literature can facilitate students' critical thinking skills as well as an opportunity for educators and scholars.

Osinubi, V. (2010). Privileging the African Metaphysics of Presence in American Slave Culture: The Example of Charles W. Chesnutt's "The Passing of Grandison." *Studies in the Literary Imagination*, 43(2), 47.

In "Privileging the African Metaphysics of Presence in American Slave Culture: The Example of Charles W. Chesnutt's *The Passing of Grandison*," the author uses Chesnutt to explain how he weds African metaphysical concepts into the narrative to offer a challenge to established racist views of race and identity. In the article, Grandison is shown to survive the African cultural syndrome through his strategic manipulation of power dynamics within the context of slavery. It argues that Chesnutt's portrayal of Grandison's "passing" highlights the tension between visible racial identity and the deeper, often unacknowledged, cultural presence of African heritage. As an important contribution to the study of African American literature and cultural history, the article provides a compelling analysis of how Chesnutt utilizes African metaphysical themes to critique the American racial hierarchies.

Bufkin. (2014). Beyond "Bitter": Chesnutt's *The Marrow of Tradition*. *American Literary Realism*, 46(3), 230. <https://doi.org/10.5406/amerlitereal.46.3.0230>

In "Beyond 'Bitter': Chesnutt's *The Marrow of Tradition*," the author reinterprets Chesnutt's novel as a nuanced exploration of the complexities of race, power, and social justice in the post-Reconstruction South, moving past the often-reduced view of the work as merely "bitter." The article considers Chesnutt's use of his characters to navigate moral problems, focusing specifically on their agency amid a systemically racist society. For instance, it goes into how the novel criticizes the insufficiencies of both white and black responses to racial inequality and a more nuanced account of social change. Thoughtful and refreshing, this article expands upon the themes of *The Marrow of Tradition* and shows the value of a work like this to readers and scholars alike.